

# Albion-Sheridan Landfill cap half complete

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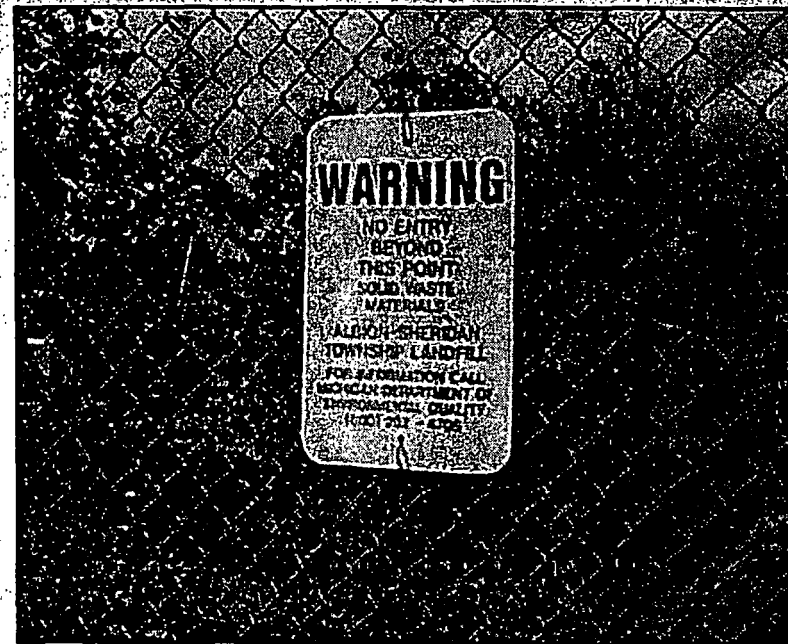
Contractors working to place a protective cap over the Albion-Sheridan landfill site are halfway done, according to consultant John Seymour.

Seymour is an employee of URS Greiner-Woodward Clyde, an engineering consultation firm that represents Cooper Industries and Corning, Inc. The latter two companies, according to a settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency, are responsible for the cap project. Two additional parties, the City of Albion and Decker Manufacturing, will later be responsible for maintaining and testing the site.

The landfill was used by the three companies and the City for several years before it was closed in 1981. In 1995, the EPA filed an order directing all four parties to design and implement a cleanup plan. However, Albion maintained that it was never an operator of the site, as the EPA said, and challenged the order. After a few years of litigation, the City reached an agreement in March of this year.

Seymour explained that while the landfill was covered with soil by its owner after it was closed, this was an improper measure. Therefore, contractors with OHM, a subsidiary of the IT Corporation, first had to clear away trees and debris before beginning the project.

The landfill cap consists of several layers. The first is a foundation of sand and collection pipes that will capture methane gas generated by decomposing garbage. Above that, a plastic geomembrane covers the entire area of the waste and beyond to keep out water. Next is a "composite geonet" consisting of a felt filter fabric and a crossed plastic grid; this is designed to carry away water so it doesn't just build up on the plastic membrane. Finally, the site is covered with an



Top photo: Members of the OHM contracting firm are currently gathering and hauling soil to cover the plastic membrane protecting the waste of the Albion-Sheridan Landfill.

Bottom photo: This sign is posted at the site of the Albion-Sheridan Landfill.

Recorder photos/Tom Kochinski

additional layer of sand 18 inches thick and 6 inches of topsoil.

At present, Seymour said, the OHM crew is about 60 percent done with the plastic membrane. The project, which began in April, is expected to be complete in September. At that time, Albion and Decker will take over such duties as cutting the grass,

collecting and analyzing water samples, and maintaining the security fence.

Seymour noted that his clients, Cooper and Corning, have worked with the EPA for the past three years to complete the project. They have also conducted information sessions to answer the questions of local residents.

Under McKeown's direction, ADPS has approached schools and

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which are businesses and industries, as well as how Albion's per capita

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